

STORMWATER TASK FORCE

MINUTES

April 28, 2016

The Stormwater Task Force (SWTF) met in the Ritter Building, first floor conference room, as scheduled, with Matt Allison, Sarah Cammer, Phyllis Luck, and Jack Rodriquenz present, as well as Land Use Director, Adam Burney and Water District Commissioner Mark Bursch. The meeting opened at 6:43 pm.

It is with regret that we accept the resignation of Jim Auge from our Task Force. We wish Jim continued success in all his endeavors, and appreciate his willingness to help out when he can.

Public Comment: Mark Bursch, Chairman of the Lunenburg Water District, let the SWTF know that the Water District doesn't have time to get involved with the Task Force, but that he will pop into our meetings from time to time. The Water District has been bringing in subcontractors to work on leak detection and they have about 3% leakage at this point. He also mentioned that in his professional work as a landscaper, he's been aware of improvements to the stormwater runoff issues in the area of Lake Whalom at Emerald Place. The folks at Emerald Place are committed to enhancing the area and reducing stormwater runoff into the lake.

Members discussed upcoming meeting dates, due to summer schedules; members will advise of meetings they anticipate not being able to attend. It was determined the SWTF will meet June 30, and that will be the only June meeting.

Adam and Phyllis reported on the workshop they attended "Creating a Revenue Stream for Stormwater Management", which meeting focused on ways communities may address funding the new requirements of the MS4 permit. A representative from Reading spoke of their success in passing a Stormwater Utility with a residential cap of \$40, which has been in place for 10 years. One presentation which was particularly helpful and worthy of sharing with the public was "Why Stormwater Matters". Members brainstormed perhaps having this presentation delivered at a BOS meeting so that the folks at home could be educated; it would then be available on youtube as well. There was discussion of beginning to present information at Town Meeting, to help educate residents on this important issue.

Members shared what they'd learned/ wanted to move forward on, in their areas of focus:

1. Sarah discussed her work on the 319 Grant proposal, which proposal is due June 1.

The Lake Shirley watershed is a likely target, as it is at level 5 (the highest level) impairment.

Focus could also be placed on the Mulpus and trying to reestablish is as a cold water fishery, as it is at level 4.

Both water bodies are in critical need, and it would be possible to write a grant to incorporate both. The grant would require matching funds and in kind support from the organizations on each lake. The Mulpus moves through a large chunk of the Town Forest. We need to decide what we want to do; the low hanging fruit for Lake Shirley is to reduce erosion and livestock wading in the waterways upstream. This requires private landowners to do something. What would help in writing the grant is information about the issues on the Mulpus, what Hickory Hills could do in matching funds and in kind support, and how that group would want to get involved in restoring a cold water fishery. It was also mentioned that the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) might be interested in the work on the Mulpus. It would be helpful to reach out to the Lake Shirley Improvement Corporation as well.

Grants can be up to \$600,000; 40% needs to be contributed by the applicant if about 1/2 of that is in cash and about 1/2 in kind contributions, the application stands a better chance of winning, rather than having it all in kind. Volunteer hours are credited at \$25/hour as in kind contributions. The Grant reimburses the applicant after work has been done, so there needs to be funds available up front. Also, letters of support must be submitted by donors to the grant.

Jack Rabbitt and Sarah will arrange a meeting with folks at Hickory Hills.

Jack Rodriquenz offered to reach out to John DiNapoli of Unitil to see if there's opportunity for cooperation on the 319 Grant.

2. Jack Rodriquez contacted the NRWA. They have a River Buffer Restoration in the Merrimack Watershed program; Jack's contact is Al Futterman. Under the driveway at the DPW facility, the DPW is going to clean the area. The NRWA folks were impressed with the Gabion filter system that the DPW had installed, working with Ed Himlan of the Mass Watershed Coalition. The NRWA is going to plant trees on the slope and bushes under the high tension wires. Jack Rodriquez offered to connect with the NRWA to see if they might be able to supply more trees for the work on the Mulpus. Jack also mentioned that Unitil is going to provide 25 trees (birch, oak, other) to the Town in compensation for the trees that they've cut down during their pruning operations to keep the electrical wires clear; perhaps some of those could also be used for the Mulpus project. Jack Rabbitt asked if it were possible to check with the Conservation Commission to see if they had a use for any of the trees. Jack Rodriquez advised that the trees are as yet uncommitted.
3. There was a discussion on the Mass Watershed Coalition (MWC) proposal. It was decided that the best option was to invite Ed Himlan of the MWC to our 5/12 meeting to discuss how we might work together. Phyllis took the action to make this happen.

The next meeting of the Stormwater Task Force will be on Thursday, May 12, at 6:30 pm, at the Ritter Building, first floor conference room.

Motion: J Rodriquez
To adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm.

2nd: J. Rabbitt
Vote: All in Favor